



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date: July 2010**

**To: News Editor**  
**From: UnitingCare West, Media Contact – Martin Grasett on 0437 188 393**  
**Sussex Street Community Law Service, Media Contact - Denise Beer on 6253 9500**

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Launch Date/Time: Thursday 22 July 2010 10am**

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### **The Hon. Bill Shorten MP speaks at IDAS launch**

UnitingCare West and Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc. will be joined by the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to officially launch the new Individual Disability Advocacy Service (IDAS).

IDAS is a free, independent and confidential support service for people with disabilities, their family members and carers. This free service is available to the North West Metropolitan Areas including Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup, Stirling and Towns of Cambridge and Vincent. It can help in accessing rights to services, education, transport, sport and recreation, housing, financial matters, employment or any other issues. The IDAS team also deals with issues of discrimination, abuse and neglect.

Chris Hall, UnitingCare West Chief Executive Officer "IDAS is a world-class service here in our own community. The advocates are well-trained professionals and are doing an excellent job."

Naomi O'Donnell (Advocate) "Anyone can be an advocate. It's about people being treated well, being respected and listened to. We're here to help speak for those who need to be heard, and that's everyone's responsibility really. I'm just fortunate enough to do this full time."

Tim Hammond, Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc. Board Chair "It has been a pleasure seeing this service established in Perth. As a lawyer, I know how important it is that everyone be treated fairly, no matter their background."

IDAS is funded through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) through the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP). FaHCSIA has funded Uniting Care West and Sussex Street Community Law Service to work in partnership to provide the service in a cooperative way to all regions.

UnitingCare West supports and empowers disadvantaged and vulnerable families and individuals by encouraging them to access services relevant to their need.



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Sussex Street Community Law Service is a community based and managed not for profit legal practice. The organization has been providing legal and social services to the community since 1978. Sussex Street's core activities are casework, community legal education, and law and legal policy reform in the areas of family civil and minor criminal law, Welfare Rights (Centrelink matters), tenancy, financial counseling and disability discrimination and disability advocacy.

IDAS currently operates out of five centres, with an advocate available as follows:  
Merriwa – 56 Baltimore Parade (City of Wanneroo) Mondays 9-1pm

Aberdeen Street – 5/5 Aberdeen Street (Town of Vincent) Mondays 1:30-4:30pm

City of Wanneroo (Sundew Room) – corner of Dunbar Rd (City of Wanneroo) Tuesdays 9-1pm

Wembley Community Centre – 40 Alexander Street Wembley (Town of Cambridge) Tuesday and Thursdays 12:30-4pm

Lotteries House – Boas Avenue Joondalup (City of Joondalup) Thursdays 9-1pm

Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre – 10 Cobbler Place Mirrabooka (City of Stirling) Fridays 9-1pm

Regular office hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am-4.30pm. For IDAS enquiries, call 1300 648 655.